

**CHARTER COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ELECTIONS, TERM LIMITS, AND CITY COUNCIL SIZE TO BE CONSIDERED BY
THE CHARTER COMMISSION**

HONOLULU, HAWAII, February 2, 2006

The 2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission will complete its initial review of charter amendment proposals on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room on the second floor of Honolulu Hale. The Commission will hear testimony, discuss, and vote on 15 proposals regarding **city elections, term limits, City Council size, and other governance topics** (see list of proposals below).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The public is encouraged to attend Charter Commission meetings and provide written and/or oral testimony. Copies of all proposals are available for viewing at Commission office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 1485 or the Municipal Library at 558 S. King Street. PDF files of the proposals are also posted on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.

THIRTY-NINE PROPOSALS PASSED TO NEXT STAGE. The Commission has already passed 39 proposals on to the next stage of the process:

- 10 proposals regarding City department/director descriptions (December 13; January 31)
- 7 proposals on the City's planning and zoning process (December 13)
- 5 proposals on government ethics and open government (January 10; January 31)
- 2 proposals on the City budget (January 10)
- 3 proposals to establish new agencies/funds (January 10)
- 2 proposals on the Neighborhood Commission/Neighborhood Boards (January 24)
- 6 "housekeeping" measures (January 24; January 31)
- 4 proposals regarding City Council procedures (January 31)

All voting results are available on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.

NEXT STEPS. All proposals that pass the initial review will be discussed again at islandwide public hearings in March 2006. Ultimately, the selected proposed charter amendments will be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voters' approval.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Charter Commission is a 13-member appointed body responsible for revising the city charter, the governing document for the City & County of Honolulu. The convening of a Charter Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for major changes to city government. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the city charter in 1972.

For more information, visit the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> or contact the Commission staff at 592-8622 or charter@honolulu.gov.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

For discussion and voting by the Charter Commission on

Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

in the Council Committee Room on the second floor of Honolulu Hale

RELATING TO THE ELECTIONS PROCESS

PROPOSAL 5 - Elections; Eliminate the first special election when there are only two candidates for an office.

PROPOSAL 6 - Elections; Return to partisan elections for the Mayor and City Council.

PROPOSAL 85 - Elections; Restore partisan elections for the offices of Mayor and Councilmembers.

PROPOSAL 39 - Charter Amendment Process; Require two-thirds rather than majority voter approval for amendments/revisions to charter.

PROPOSAL 87 - Elections; Instant runoff voting for city elections.

RELATING TO OFFICES AND TERMS

PROPOSAL 19 - Term Limits; Re term limits for the City Council.

PROPOSAL 55 - Term Limits; Re term limits for Councilmembers.

PROPOSAL 86 - City Council; Increase the number of members on the City Council from 9 to 11 or 13.

PROPOSAL 64 - Prosecuting Attorney; Establish a two-term limit for the office of Prosecuting Attorney.

PROPOSAL 83 - Prosecuting Attorney; Clarify the term duration of the Prosecuting Attorney.

PROPOSAL 90 - Prosecuting Attorney; Convert the Prosecuting Attorney position from an elected position to a position appointed by the Mayor.

OTHER GOVERNANCE TOPICS

PROPOSAL 8 - Public hearings for proposed ordinances and resolutions.

PROPOSAL 50 - Public Hearing Notices; Reduce from ten to six the number of days a notice of public hearing must be publicized prior to such hearing.

PROPOSAL 11 - Powers and Purposes of the City; Add "justice" and "equal rights".

PROPOSAL 40 - Powers and Purposes of the City; add "justice" and "equal rights".

PDF files of the proposals are posted on the Commission website,
<http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.

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